



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2021**

Directors Present – Video Conference	District Staff Present – Video Conference	Absent
President Leticia De Lara Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja Director Arthur Shorr Director Carole Rogers, RN Director Les Zendle, MD Director Evett PerezGil Director Carmina Zavala	Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Chief of Community Engagement Jana Trew, Senior Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Eric Taylor, Accounting Manager Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Vanessa Smith, Special Projects and Program Manager Erica Huskey, Administrative and Program Assistant Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board	Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President De Lara called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors' present except Director Rogers who joined the meeting at 5:52 p.m.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President De Lara led the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#21-36 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Zavala to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Rogers
D. Public Comment	There were no public comments.	



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<p>E. Consent Agenda</p> <p>1. BOARD MINUTES a. Board of Directors Meeting – March 23, 2021</p> <p>2. FINANCIALS a. Approval of the March 2021 Financial Statements – F&A Approved April 13, 2021</p> <p>3. SERVICE AGREEMENTS a. Las Palmas Medical Plaza Property Management/Maintenance Agreement – INPRO-EMS Construction</p>	<p>President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda while abstaining from the vote due to her absence in March.</p>	<p>#21-37 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director PerezGil to the consent agenda. Motion passed 5-2. AYES – 5 Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Rogers ABSTAIN – 1 President De Lara</p>
<p>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <p>1. COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign for Underserved Communities in the Coachella Valley</p> <p>2. The Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District (CVRCD) Feasibility Study</p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, described the vaccination efforts and the significant improvements for full and partial vaccinations for an equity lens improvement for filling the gaps in racial and ethnic disparities, further explaining the data for the vaccinations in the Coachella Valley and the data partnership with the county to analyze and produce reports with staff working closely with the Department of Public Health, thanking Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst for her leadership.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that staff is continuing the research with recommendations at the May meeting and visiting the manufacturers of the mobile unit, including conversations with community members.</p>	



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<p>3. Strategic Planning Retreat Update</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained the challenges with scheduling the Strategic Planning Retreat, the ideal location and time that is convenient, vigilant of the CDC guidelines for gatherings, reviewing other public agencies examples for in-person meetings, and working with the consultants on the new time and location.</p>	
<p>4. Wellness Park Bench Dedication Ceremony, Timothy Ray Brown – Friday, May 7</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided details on the background of Mr. Timothy Ray Brown and the upcoming dedication ceremony at the Wellness Park due to the purchase of a bench. News releases were distributed, and the Desert Sun will be present at the bench dedication ceremony.</p>	
<p>5. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Budget Request</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) budget request proposing a \$32M allocation to the Officer of the Governor in hopes that it passes for all healthcare Districts receiving between \$50-\$750k for future costs to address the economic impact of the COVID pandemic. The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) also submitted a budget request, and Districts operating hospitals would receive the bulk of funding.</p>	
<p>6. AB 868 – State of Emergency: Funeral Expense Assistance</p>	<p>Sponsored by Assemblymember Garcia, Dr.</p>	



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<p>7. Community Hike at Oswit Canyon</p>	<p>Bárzaga, CEO, explained that AB 868 for California residents impacted by COVID would cover the costs of funeral expense up to \$5k, further detailing the Districts letter of support.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the Community Hike at Oswit Canyon, thanking Director Zavala for her initiative, idea, and insight for a small gathering of hikers, and the District will provide a \$1k donation to the land trust for preservation purposes.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, introduced Jana Trew, the new Senior Program Officer, Behavioral Health, describing her background and experience with behavioral health.</p>	
<p>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network (DCN), Desert Healthcare District (DRMC), provided an update on behalf of Michele Finney, CEO, explaining that the COVID census continues to decline with under ten COVID patients at DRMC, nine positive patients as of April 27, three COVID positive patients at Hi-Desert Medical Center, no patients under investigation (PUI), the continuing care center has zero positive patients, and there are four PUI's and one positive at JFK Memorial. Per Mrs. Finney's report at the March Board meeting, DCN is</p>	



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	<p>transitioning to Blue Shield as the statewide Third-Party Administrator (TPA) starting on April 22.</p> <p>Mr. Evans provided the schedule for DCN vaccination distribution with the Hi-Desert Medical Center on Thursday's, including a facility across the street from JFK Memorial, Fridays in Palm Springs at the Neuro Vitality Center, and since January, DCN has inoculated 10k people, commending the work of District team and community partners.</p> <p>DCN is also ensuring that seniors receiving Meals on Wheels services through The Joslyn and Mizell Centers receive home visits for vaccinations.</p> <p>Advancing into the state's orange tier, onsite visitors, chaplains, and volunteers are now offering services at the DCN's hospitals.</p> <p>The new Chief Compliance Officer, formerly at Hi-Desert Medical Center has been hired, further explaining the CCO's induction as a hall of fame employee.</p> <p>DRMC approved various capital construction projects amounting to \$2M was funded for various approved projects.</p>	
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	<p>Leadership is ensuring that staff returns to the service lines safely, and the Doctor’s Day observance in recognition of their work, especially throughout last year also included those in residency.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board</p>	<p>Director Zendle described the highlights of the Governing Board meeting explaining the orthopedic service line presentation, the various awards, the shortage of orthopedic surgeons in the Valley, and due to COVID, in 2019 there was a decrease in elective joint cases; however, their expectations that the cases will increase in the latter part of 2021 and in early 2022.</p> <p>The DRMC CEO reviewed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) closed, open, and pending cases for any areas of concern and questions of the Governing Board.</p> <p>The Governing Board reviewed and discussed the quality report, the upcoming surveys, such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JACHO) evaluation, which commenced today.</p> <p>The quality data was also reviewed, which will be presented at the District’s Hospital Lease Oversight Committee meeting on May 17.</p>	



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	<p>The Governing Board received an update on the medical staff credentialing and peer review with a presentation from Gemma Kim, MD, to reform the programs and ensuring that the standards are met.</p> <p>Director Rogers recognized Dr. Kim as the Chief of Staff and for performing an extraordinary job.</p>	
<p>I.1. Program Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021 2. Funding Requests Schedule 3. Progress and Final Reports 4. Grant Payment Schedule 5. Desert Healthcare District and Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) \$100,000 Joint Pool Collective COVID-19 Recovery Fund 6. Consideration to approve Grant #1266 Galilee Center Our Lady of Guadalupe Shelter – \$150,000 	<p>President De Lara inquired on any questions of the Board concerning the April Program Committee meeting minutes, funding requests schedule, and grant payment schedule.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that the COVID-19 Recovery Fund received seventy-one requests for funding totaling \$717k. Thirty-one of the requests were jointly approved and funded totaling \$230k.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the Galilee Center’s grant request of \$150k for the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shelter with the Program Committee recommending full approval.</p>	<p>#21-38 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Rogers to approve Grant #1266 Galilee Center Our Lady of Guadalupe Shelter – \$150,000 Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0</p>



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<p>7. Consideration to approve Grant #1277 Lift To Rise – United Lift Rental Assistance 2021 – \$300,000</p>	<p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the grant request of \$300k from Lift To Rise – United Lift Rental Assistance, anticipating 6,500 applications by June to qualify and disburse funding to 4,500 families by December.</p> <p>Director Zendle expressed his concerns with supporting administrative costs for disbursement of funds describing the funding last year for rental assistance with 80% for administrative costs, with the Board approving lowering the costs to 50%, further explaining that the role of the District is health, improving access to essential health services, which should be the District’s focus, and the grant does not fit into the mandate.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that in the past the District’s programs have supported housing and assists with homelessness, inquiring with staff about the evaluation of the administrative fees.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the minimal administrative costs, and that the grant benefits the community with housing as a social determinant of health.</p>	<p>ABSENT – 0</p> <p>#21-39 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Zavala to approve Grant #1277 Lift To Rise – United Lift Rental Assistance 2021 – \$300,000 Motion passed 6-1.</p> <p>AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala</p> <p>NOES – 1 Director Zendle</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
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<p>I.2. Finance, Legal, Administration & Real Estate</p> <p>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2021</p>	<p>Heather Vaikona, CEO, Lift to Rise, explained that in NY and other locations across the nation must return CARES Act funding, describing the timeline for disbursing the funds in hard-to-reach communities, the distinction of the program, the challenges of the application process, and being grateful to the District for the additional support.</p> <p>President De Lara explained that she is a Board member of Lift to Rise with no financial interest, further detailing that Lift to Rise does an amazing outreach effort and they are less apprehensive than a government agency.</p> <p>Director Shorr highlighted the F&A Committee meeting minutes that included the upcoming preliminary budget, the Las Palmas Medical Plaza CAM fees, and fire sprinkler system, the grant payment schedule, and the buildout of the conference room at the Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) satellite office.</p>	
<p>J. Old Business</p> <p>1. Desert Healthcare District History Book – Will Dean, Director of Marketing and Communications</p>	<p>Will Dean, Director of Marketing and Communications, described the History Book explaining that the Book is nearly designed, including the photos and bios of the Board. The Spanish translation is</p>	



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<p>2. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) CVLINK Q1 Progress Report</p>	<p>temporarily delayed, which has moved the publication date to July 1 with opportunities to promote the Book in the community.</p> <p>Tom Kirk, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), provided a status report of the CVLink project describing the groundbreaking ceremony in the East Valley connecting La Quinta and Indio, Cal Trans approval for right-away with additional construction completion in September.</p> <p>The Executive Committee approved the District’s \$500k match for CVAG’s Housing First program and agreed to the Memorandum of Understanding from the Foundation.</p> <p>Director Borja explained cycling from Monterrey Avenue to Park View and the connectors with Mr. Kirk describing the on and off-ramps.</p>	
<p>K. Legal</p> <p>1. AB 903 (Frazier) Dissolution of Los Mednos Community Health District</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described bill AB 903 to dissolve the Los Medanos Community Health District that had owned and operated a hospital, which was sold and history of bickering with government entities. The Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) and the California</p>	



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	<p>Special Districts Association (CSDA) are recommending a stance to the bill.</p>	
<p>L. Immediate Issues and Comments</p>	<p>Director Zendle explained that the District should consider in-person meetings in June and remote access for the public that does not want to attend in person inquiring if the Board would like staff to explore the matter.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that planning for large gatherings should be performed according to the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) guidelines and allow staff to provide suggestions based on those guidelines.</p> <p>Director Zendle described his confusion in the F&A Committee meeting concerning the remaining grant funds acknowledging that the past year has been unique regarding the District’s grant awards, but as we prepare the financials and budgeting with the remaining grant monies and adjusting the budget accordingly in the new fiscal year.</p> <p>President De Lara explained that staff will examine the remaining grant funding that can be rolled over into the new year.</p> <p>Director Zendle requested a discussion about AB 2019 interpretations as other</p>	



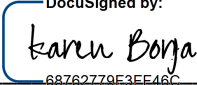
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	<p>districts seem to run the grant programs smoothly considering the limitation. Dr. Bárzaga explained that the Board staff and legal has described AB 2019 several times with legal counsel preparing a presentation for the next Board development Workshop.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that funds were rolled over pre-pandemic from the grant budget, the Board discussed the AB 2019 restrictions at the prior meeting, and her outreach to Assemblymember Garcia concerning the changes that should occur, further describing that her ask requests includes the ability to advertise the availability of grant funds, and bidders' conferences.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the discussions on the record at the March Board meeting that the proposed changes to AB 2019 were an individual Board member request, not the Board, Asemblymember's Garcia staff is participating in the Zoom meeting, the Board has not expressed any concern, and will comply with the law.</p> <p>Director Shorr listened to a talk show on FM 104.3 that highlighted the public service of Eisenhower promotions and fundraising inquiring if it</p>	
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	<p>could be an opportunity for the District and he welcomes Dr. Bázaga to consider the matter as the District outlines its Strategic Plan.</p> <p>President De Lara thanked the Board and Vice President Borja for filling in for her during President De Lara’s absence at the April Board meeting.</p>	
M. Adjournment	President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.	Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents

DocuSigned by:

 ATTEST: _____
 Karen Borja, Vice-President/Secretary
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board